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## ACTION ALERT FOR VLADIMIR RAIZ

From: Robert Goldberger, Biology Vice Chairman

Date: March 28, 1988

Soviet molecular biologist Vladimir Raiz has asked us to relay the following appeal for help to you. It speaks for itself.

Dear Colleagues:

For 15 years I have been trying to get permission from the Soviet authorities to emigrate to Israel. During these long years, I have often been aware of your concern and assistance. I am writing to you this time to ask you to make a concentrated effort on behalf of myself and my family, for this may be a very fateful moment for us.

In 1987 the authorities told me that I would be refused permission to emigrate until the year 2000. The reason given for this refusal was my work in the Kazan Electro-Technical Institute from 1962 to 1965, where I was sent as a young specialist after finishing university. Since that time, that is, since 1965, I have never done any work connected with state secrets.

Since 1973, when we applied to emigrate, and I lost my job in my specialty, I have been unable to get any permanent employment in general. For eight years, with breaks, I have worked as a postman.

My wife, Karmela Raiz, who plays violin in a philharmonic orchestra, constantly found herself under threat of losing her position, which not only gives us our means of existence but also the right to live in this city. If she loses her job, we may be accused of "parasitism," the minimum penalty for which would be expulsion from the city.

Fifteen years of unceasing tension, an atmosphere of surveillance, provocations, searches, cutting off our telephone, blocking our mail, and so on, led to the death of my father and my wife's parents. People who went through the Second World War are unable to bear such nervous tension.

Our two sons were born and are growing up in circumstances inappropriate for children. From their very birth they have been deprived of the joys of youth.

(over, please)

At the present time, when many long-term refuseniks have received permission to emigrate to Israel, the fate of our family depends even more than previously on the pressure which will be brought to bear upon the Soviet authorities.

I ask you please to increase the stream of letters and telegrams of protest to the Soviet representatives in your respective countries and to the Soviet foreign ministry and the All-Union Ovir in Moscow. I ask you to turn again to scientific organizations, to protest against the fact that a scientist has been deprived not only of the possibility of carrying on research, but of leading a normal life in general.

16 May 1988 will mark the 15th anniversary of the receipt of our first refusal. Only with your assistance do we have a chance of finally becoming free people before this date.

Thank you in advance for your kind consideration.

Yours Sincerely,

10 March 1988

(signed) Vladimir Raiz  
Ul. Charno 18, KV. 4  
Vilnius 232051, USSR

We are coordinating a campaign with groups in nine other countries to achieve Raiz's emigration. The objective is to get as many scientists as possible to intercede on Raiz's behalf. We ask that you write to or cable the following officials:

Rudolph Kuznetsov  
Chief, All-Union OVIR  
6 Ogareva Street  
Moscow 103009 USSR

Andrei A. Gromyko  
Chairman, Presidium of the Supreme Soviet  
The Kremlin  
Moscow 103132 USSR

Edward Shevardnadze  
Minister of Foreign Affairs  
Smolenskaya-Sennaya Sq. 32/34  
Moscow 121200 USSR

Academician G.I. Marchuk  
President, Academy of Sciences of the USSR  
Leninsky Prospekt 14  
Moscow 117901 USSR

Please send copies of your messages to our office and to the Soviet ambassador in Washington. He should be addressed as follows:

His Excellency Yuri V. Dubinin  
Ambassador  
Embassy of the USSR  
1125 16th Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20036

You might also wish to cable or write to Raiz himself, informing him of your action. This will have an impact not only on him but also on the others who read his mail.